

Flown in Combat

Kevin Peace, production support



manager at the plant, left in October for his second tour in Afghanistan, not to exceed five years. He was there from Jan-May 2007.

“I’ve been at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP) for 16 years and never got to see the whole picture from Army Materiel Command (AMC) down to what MCAAP does to serve all the military,” Peace said.

He said he didn’t realize that AMC supports the whole world until he got to Afghanistan.

During his first deployment, Peace was based in Bagram, Afghanistan and oversaw 25 contractors. During the extremely cold months of January and February, he said, that his can of shaving cream froze.

“We worked 12 to 16 hours a day seven days a week and didn’t have any days off during the six months there,” he said.

The food was provided by a contractor and were “great meals” which included steak and omlettes to order. Sunday was a casual day. “You were allowed go to church or work out (at the gym) but you still had to go to work,” he said.

Bagram had a great Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility which included a gym, computers, e-mail, webcam capability, big screen TV’s, DVD players, Play Station 2 and Nintendo, he said.

While in Afghanistan, Peace was thinking about his fellow co-workers at MCAAP.

He was invited by a U.S. Air Force pilot to visit their air base. While there he saw them loading 500 pound bombs made at MCAAP. Until then, Peace said he “didn’t

realize what important piece of the puzzle MCAAP played in the world.”

He asked if he could go on a ride with the pilots (They said, “no.”) But the pilots did offer to fly an American flag on their next combat mission. So Peace went to the post exchange and purchased one.

Peace emphasized that the flag, while presented to him on behalf of MCAAP, is for *every employee*. He presented the flag and certificate to Col. Arnold Montgomery, plant commander. The certificate and flag, enclosed in a wooden presentation case, hangs in the lobby of the administration building.

The certificate reads: “This flag was proudly flown in combat. Presented to Kevin Peace for: McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. Call Sign—Hoss 01. Aircraft 90-0235, Mission #731. This flag was flown in an F-15E Strike Eagle based out of Bagram AB (Air Base), Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on 02 May 2007.”